

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 461

Department of Ecology

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2005-07 Expenditure Authority	1,483.7	80,692	308,068	388,760
Supplemental Changes				
Well Construction Technical Correction		300		300
Fund Balancing			(534)	(534)
Reduce Puget Sound Toxics From Businesses	2.0		458	458
Enhance Voluntary Cleanup Program	4.0		1,000	1,000
Cleanup Priority Act Implementation	4.2		2,405	2,405
Cleanup Priority Act Legal Defense			546	546
Hanford Groundwater Modeling			120	120
PBT Implementation	.5		528	528
Enhance Puget Sound Cleanups	3.5		700	700
Superfund Cleanup Site Operation			375	375
Hazardous Material Spill Response	1.0		301	301
Hazardous Waste Compliance	2.0		580	580
Mercury Chemical Action Plan	1.5		415	415
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant			642	642
Air Permit Technical Correction			232	232
Water Quality Loan Capacity	1.0		428	428
Stream Gaging Cooperative Program			125	125
Construction Stormwater Permits	4.5		781	781
Green House Gas Inventory and Economic Assessments	.5	200		200
Puget Sound Oil Transfer Inspection	3.0		859	859
Flood Control Emergency Grant Funds			335	335
Waste to Fuels Technology			225	225
SmartBuy		(791)		(791)
Pension Plan 1 Unfunded Liabilities			685	685
Classification Revisions		(1)	(42)	(43)
Fuel Rate Adjustment		41	96	137
Central Service Agency Charges		110	181	291
Subtotal - Supplemental Changes	27.7	(141)	11,441	11,300
Total Proposed Budget	1,511.4	80,551	319,509	400,060
Difference	27.7	(141)	11,441	11,300
Percent Change	1.9%	(0.2)%	3.7%	2.9%

SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES

Well Construction Technical Correction

The Department of Ecology and local health departments regulate well construction and decommissioning to ensure proper construction and to protect groundwater resources. An incorrect proviso in the operating budget reduced the state General Fund appropriation by \$300,000 for this program. The funding is reinstated.

Fund Balancing

The Emergency Water Account is reduced because it was double appropriated in the 2003-05 and 2005-07 Biennia, due to not knowing when the expenditures were actually going to occur. The Freshwater Weeds Account also had expenditures in both biennia since the exact timing of when they were going to be paid out was unknown. (State Emergency Water Projects Account, State Drought Preparedness Account, Freshwater Aquatic Weeds Account, Emergency Water Account-State, Fresh Water Weeds Account-State)

Reduce Puget Sound Toxics From Businesses

A Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency (TREE) Program team is created for Puget Sound businesses. Four staff will provide engineering and technical assistance to help industrial and commercial facilities redesign processes to eliminate or substantially reduce the production of wastes that contain toxic contaminants while making significant water and energy saving improvements. Staff will identify businesses and/or toxics dischargers in Puget Sound watersheds and work with them to stop toxics before they start and save water before it is wasted. (State Toxics Control Account)

Enhance Voluntary Cleanup Program

The cleanup and protection of Puget Sound is critical to the social and economic well-being of the citizens of Washington State. The Department of Ecology will prioritize and accelerate the cleanup of 115 known contaminated sites that lie adjacent to and within one-half mile of Puget Sound. This action will utilize the Voluntary Cleanup Program, existing formal administrative oversight capabilities, and contracted cleanups for abandoned sites that pose a threat to Puget Sound. (State Toxics Account-State)

Cleanup Priority Act Implementation

The Cleanup Priority Act (CPA) passed by Washington State voters in 2004 requires the Department to undertake specific actions for the cleanup of Hanford. The CPA was challenged in court by the federal government and a final court ruling is pending. Currently, the state is significantly restrained by a federal court order from implementing the CPA. If the case is resolved this summer, authority is provided for the Department of Ecology to implement the CPA, which is funded by federal fees related to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. (State Toxics Control Account)

Cleanup Priority Act Legal Defense

The CPA requires the Department of Ecology to undertake specific actions for the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Federal fees will pay for legal defense of this voter-approved initiative. (State Toxics Control Account)

Hanford Groundwater Modeling

The Department of Ecology is responsible for state oversight of the cleanup and management of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. To properly review and analyze several complex environmental documents currently being developed or modified by the United States Department of Energy, Ecology needs to complete specialized groundwater modeling and risk assessments. Federal fees will procure contracted services to support the evaluation of the Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Hanford Tank Waste EIS, Hanford Integrated Disposal Facility Permit risk analysis, and Hanford Tank Farms Closure Plan risk analysis. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

PBT Implementation

The Department of Ecology will complete the Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE) chemical action plan by December 2005 and begin implementation of the plan. PBDEs are chemicals used in flame retardants and are a Persistent Bioaccumulating Toxin (PBT) that can cause adverse health effects. In addition, the Department will use one-time funding to monitor PBTs in the environment and develop a multi-year chemical action schedule. The Department of Health will add an ongoing staff to coordinate fish consumption advisories and continue education efforts regarding these advisories. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Enhance Puget Sound Cleanups

The cleanup and protection of Puget Sound is critical to the social and economic well-being of the citizens of Washington State. The department will add eight cleanup staff to undertake pollution source control measures in the Lower Duwamish Waterway in support of a multi-party cleanup effort, as well as coordinate source control and cleanup of state-owned aquatic lands and adjacent uplands around Puget Sound. (State Toxics Control Account)

Superfund Cleanup Site Operation

Under the federal Superfund law, the Environmental Protection Agency cleans up contaminated sites for which there are no responsible parties to pay for the costs. After the cleanup is completed, these sites are transferred to states who are responsible for all costs associated with the continued site maintenance. Within the past year, two sites have been transferred to Washington State which require significant expenditures to fulfill the maintenance responsibilities. Maintenance will be conducted at Well 12A in Tacoma and Frontier Hardchrome in Vancouver. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Hazardous Material Spill Response

The Department of Ecology responds to hazardous materials spills and performs cleanups to ensure that standards for public health and environmental protection are met. Ecology has experienced a 30 percent increase in reported hazardous materials spills over the past three years with an increase of over 300 reports a year occurring in the northwest counties. Two additional spill responders for the northwest region will support early response and address the high potential for hazardous materials releases from transportation, oil refining activities, and pipelines in areas in and adjacent to Puget Sound. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Hazardous Waste Compliance

The Department of Ecology inspects businesses that generate hazardous wastes to ensure compliance with state laws. The agency also issues permits to facilities that treat, store and/or dispose of hazardous wastes to ensure that they adequately protect public health and the environment. To respond to increasing environmental threats found at these facilities, four additional inspectors will conduct an additional 150 compliance/enforcement and corrective action activities to protect public health and to possibly avoid greater cleanup costs in the future. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Mercury Chemical Action Plan

Mercury is a long-lived Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxin (PBT) and is very harmful to humans, especially women of childbearing age and children. The Department of Ecology (DOE) will implement the Mercury Chemical Action Plan (MCAP), which is the first chemical action plan developed under the agency's PBT strategy as directed under the Mercury Reduction and Education Act (Chapter 70.95M RCW). Ecology will negotiate and implement three memoranda of understanding with key sectors (dental offices, hospitals and auto recyclers) that work with mercury containing products and/or waste. All costs are one-time except for ongoing monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, the Department of Health will participate in these activities with DOE, which will result in reduced human and environmental exposure to this toxic chemical. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant

Ecology will receive \$825,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from January 2006 through June 2007. To gather data to evaluate compliance with permit conditions associated with wetland disturbance, four months (\$183,000) of this funding is being processed as an unanticipated receipt and the remainder is added to the Department's maintenance level budget. (General Fund-Federal)

Air Permit Technical Correction

During the 2005-07 budget process, the Department of Ecology requested a \$1.3 million reduction in the Air Operating Permit Account appropriation based upon a forecasted reduction in work using a statutorily required workload model. However, the forecast did not anticipate the salary increases, benefit changes, and salary survey upgrades enacted by the 2005 Legislature. To provide a service level consistent with the workload model, additional permit fees will be collected to cover these increased costs from industrial and commercial facilities. (Air Operating Permit Account-State)

Water Quality Loan Capacity

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made an additional \$10.7 million in one-time federal-state revolving capitalization grants available for Fiscal Year 2007. As a result, additional oversight, administration and loan tracking services will be required to administer these loans for wastewater treatment facilities. (Water Pollution Control Revolving-State, Water Pollution Control Revolving-Federal)

Stream Gaging Cooperative Program

The Department of Ecology works cooperatively with the United States Geological Survey in funding stream gages in Washington State. Stream gages provide data critical for water management, drought response, flood management, setting and meeting instream flows, and local government land use decisions. To meet the required state match, one-time Reclamation Revolving Account funds are provided to maintain these cooperative gages during the current biennium. (Reclamation Account-State)

Construction Stormwater Permits

The federal Clean Water Act requires certain industries, individuals and municipalities to have water quality discharge permits for their stormwater discharges. In November 2005, the Department of Ecology will re-issue construction permits that will include new permit requirements for construction sites that are between one and five acres. Increased fees accompanying these permits will help to ensure that properly managed stormwater discharges protects water quality, minimizes flooding and protects habitat. (Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Green House Gas Inventory and Economic Assessments

Washington state is facing climate issues, such as lower snow packs and summer droughts, that will only become more severe as global warming advances. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions requires more than just a pollution control strategy. It requires an economic transition from carbon-based fuels to clean fuels and efficient energy systems. The state currently does not have a mechanism to provide current, detailed information about sources, volumes, or trends in greenhouse gases (GHG). In order to better inform future policy choices, ongoing funding will be used to inventory and categorize state GHG emission. The Department will also work with the University of Washington to complete an analysis of the economic impacts of climate change based on the latest scientific information. This information will provide the solid foundation necessary for making wise and effective decisions about important, long-term investments.

Puget Sound Oil Transfer Inspection

More than 18 billion gallons of oil are transported through Washington State each year. Most of this oil is handled more than once when refined products are transferred between oil tankers, cargo vessels, shoreline facilities, and tank trucks. The 2004 Legislature enacted legislation requiring companies delivering fuel to vessels to place oil containment booms around the vessel and have alternative spill prevention measures in place. In fulfillment of this legislation, Ecology is writing rules to establish a state oil transfer inspection program and will inspect 35 percent of over 9,600 oil transfer operations performed each year. These inspections will emphasize high-risk transfers in order to achieve a significant reduction in damaging oil spills. (Oil Spill Prevention Account-State)

Flood Control Emergency Grant Funds

The Department of Ecology provides grants and technical assistance to local governments for flood damage reduction projects and comprehensive flood hazard management plans. To ensure that resources are available to address local emergency flood control needs that may emerge during this biennium, the remaining fund balance from this account is provided. (Flood Control Assistance Account-State)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Waste to Fuels Technology

In order to help grow the bioenergy industry, the Department of Ecology will form a partnership with Washington State University to conduct research on markets, products, and bioenergy potential. Specific work will include beginning a pilot project to convert solid waste to biogas through anaerobic digestion and to complete a biomass inventory. The project will include the economic and technical assessments necessary to help the public sector and private business complete successful bioenergy projects. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Fuel Rate Adjustment

The Department of Ecology is responsible for a wide range of environmental permitting, inspection, and technical assistance work that requires staff travel. The agency's actual fuel consumption for Fiscal Year 2005 was 199,396 gallons. Current Washington State Department of Transportation fuel cost projections have significantly increased these costs above the current allocation. Funding is provided to cover these increased costs. (various accounts)